

1187 2-1
m: 001 4
A TRUE

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Celebrated Secret

OF

Mr. *TIMOTHY BEAGHAN*,

lately Killed at the *Five Bells* Tavern
in the *Strand*, Famous for Curing the
KING'S EVIL.

IN A

LETTER

TO

Mr. *William Comper*, Surgeon.

R. BY

MAURICE TOBIN, Apothecary, near the *Savoy*
in the *Strand*.

London, Printed for the Author, 1697.

A TRUE

ACCOUNT

OF THE

DEATH OF

OF

MR. THOMAS BENTLEY

late of the City of London, who died on the 10th day of the month of January, 1791, at the age of 70 years, after a long and painful illness.

KING'S COLLEGE

AND

LETTER

TO

MR. WILLIAM COOPER, SURGEON

BY

MARICE TONIN, Apothecary, near the Savoy
in the Strand.

A
LETTER
TO

Mr. William Comper, Surgeon;

ABOUT
An Effectual Method for Curing all
Scrophulous Diseases, commonly called
the *KING'S-EVIL*.

S I R,

YOU will doubtless agree with the rest of the
World, that among all the Diseases within the
Sphere of Physick and Chirurgery, there is not
one in which Physicians and Chirurgeons have
taken more Pains, and have had less Success than
in Curing the King's Evil: For this Disease hath been hitherto
reckon'd by Natural Means so Uncurable, that it was thought
nothing but a Supernatural Vertue granted to Kings from
Heaven could entirely Cure it, by laying their Hands upon

the Scrophulous Persons; It doth not belong to me to dispute whether even the Hands of Monarchs can Cure this Stubborn Distemper, but I am convinced by several Experiences, as you your self and Hundreds of other People in this City know very well, that Mr. *Timothy Beaghan*, killed of late at the *Five Bells Tavern* in the *Strand*, had almost an effectual Method to Cure this Disease; which was a Diet Drink and Pills, with the Manual Operation when there was room for Surgery in the Case. This Secret I have my self now, and do intend to make the same use of it as he did, knowing already that it hath and will have the same Effect: but to convince your self and the rest of the World of the Efficacy of these Medicines, and of the Certainty that they are in my Possession, I thought it necessary to acquaint you how Mr. *Beaghan* himself got it, how he came into Reputation and Practice, what remarkable Cures he hath performed, and how he came to communicate his Secret to me.

Mr. *Beaghan* was bred a Soldier, and was for several Years heretofore a Sergeant in the Earl of *Litchfield's* Regiment, wherein he lost his Leg, for which he carried a wooden Leg; His Wife had this Secret first, and she lived of it; Dr. *Horneck*, of the *Savoy*, lately deceased, recommended her to several Persons Infected with the *King's-Evil*; she did work great Cures, and died about Nine Years ago, and left her Secret to her Husband. Mr. *Beaghan* being disabled, and made incapable to serve by the loss of one of his Legs, and being consequently reduced to great Extremities, he undertook to make use of this Secret for his Livelihood; But having no Experience in the Secret, no Skill in Medicines, nor in their Preparations, and not knowing by sight the very Drugs he was to make use of, and being besides too poor
and

and despicable to be believed, or to be thought capable to Cure such intricate Diseases; he came to me about Seven Years ago, and acquainted me of the Misery he was in, and of the goodness of his Secret; he desired me, since he could not be Credited himself, to recommend him to any Persons, Rich or Poor, that had the *King's-Evil*, and he would infallibly Cure them, for any Gratuity they would be pleased to give him. Suspecting the good Success he promised with such assurance, I was very backward and cautious to recommend him to any of my Acquaintance, for fear by any ill Management I should be blamed, and reflected upon for recommending a Man so illiterate; knowing besides that most Secrets are violent Medicines, which disturb the Humours, and disorder the whole Oeconomy of the Body: Norwithstanding, pitying the poor Man's Condition, I promised him if he shewed me his Receipt, and if I found nothing in it Pernicious, I would do him all the Service I could (my own Reputation being safe;) And I assured him at the same time, that I would not whilst he lived make any use of his Secret my self, nor disclose the same to any Body else. And accordingly he shewed me his Receipt of the Pills and Diet Drink, of which I took a Copy, and finding nothing in them dangerous, but rather a very exact Proportion of wholesom Ingredients, I recommended him to several; I bought the Drugs for him, and put him into a Method, little expecting the wonderful Effects which those Medicines wrought afterwards; for I was surprized to see Ulcers and Fistula's healed, most obstinate Tumours dissolved, the Mass of Blood sweetned and rectified, corroded Bones cleansed and made sound, little Scrophulous Children, all Emaciated and at Death's door, miraculously Recovered, and

and such Incredible Cures performed of the *King's-Evil*, that this poor Soldier got in a small time a vast Reputation, as well as a great deal of Money, and the People stiled him Doctor. And to satisfy you that he hath done unexpected things, I thought fit to let you know the Names of some of the Persons he Cured of the *King's-Evil*, as Mrs Lowfield on Ludgate-Hill, Mr. Bridger's Daughter and Son in Durham-Tard, Mr. Hornby's Child in Lombard street, Mr. Hunt of Worcestershire, Mr. Goulding's Child of Clare-Market, Mr. Edmond's Daughter of London, My Lord Dundonnell the Earl of Arran's Nephew, Sir Michael Cole's Child in Pallmall, Mr. Dewy of Greenwich, and many others, which would be too tedious to relate. Since therefore, Sir, Mr. Beaghan is now Dead, and since I was instrumental to bring him into Business, and did him no Prejudice while he lived, I think I have Reason enough and Right to turn this Secret communicated to me to my own Advantage, as well as to that of the Publick; yet that the College of Physicians, for which I have a great deal of Respect and Veneration, should not think that I intend to do more than becomes an Apothecary of the Hall, I thought it necessary to communicate this Secret to some Discreet and Skilful Doctor of the said College, that would have Judgment enough not only to manage safely these Medicines in all the dangerous Symptoms of the *King's-Evil*, but likewise to improve it further for the Benefit of the Publick; Wherefore Doctor Connor, Fellow of the Royal Society, and one of the College of Physicians, being an expert Anatomist, and well versed in Medicines, and in the Practice of Physick, and having Experience my self of his Skill in Curing often Intricate Diseases, I have communicated this Secret to him, and desired him

him to appear in it ; He liked mightily the Ingredients, the nice Proportion, and the exact Composition of the Pills and Diet-Drink ; but he desired, before he would appear, to be further convinced that these were the very same, and the only Ingredients the Deceased made use of ; Wherefore, to satisfy the Doctor, I went to Mr. *Head*, a Druggist in the Strand, near *Bull-Inn-Court*, who was the only Person Mr. *Beaghan* bought his Drugs of these several Years ; and Mr. *Head* will justify that the Drugs in my Receipt are the very same which Mr. *Beaghan* used to buy of him, and I myself have a Note under Mr. *Beaghan's* Hand to confirm the same : To convince the Doctor further, I made some Bottles of the Diet-Drink, and sent them to some of Mr. *Beaghan's* Patients, namely to Mrs *Lowfield*, who Certifies it hath the same Taste and the same Effect with her as it used to have in the Deceased's life time. The Doctor also drank a Bottle thereof, and I drank another myself, and we found it very agreeable. Seeing therefore it is undeniable and certain, both by Experience and Reason, that this was the very same Method the Deceased followed in Curing the *King's-Evil*, I thought fit in this Letter to acquaint the Publick as well as your self, that all Persons Infected with the *King's-Evil*, may repair to Doctor *Connor* in *Bowstreet* for his Advice, for I will do nothing without his Direction in those intricate Scrophulous Diseases, he being a proper Judge of the different Constitutions of Mankind ; also when convenient to call in a Chirurgeon for outward Applications : For my part I will make it my Business, that what relates to me, I mean the making up of the Medicines thus prescribed, shall be performed with such Care and Watchfulness as will be for the Doctor's Reputation and mine, as well as for the Benefit

(8)
of the Publick. Excuse, Sir, my Trouble and Tediousness,
and believe me,

London, the 25th of
August, 1697.

Your very Obedient Humble Servant,

Maurice Tobin.

From the Three Black Lions in the Strand, near Duchy-lane.



